

wherein the step of generating the composite image further comprises retrieving the customer image in response to a request for the composite image.

Please cancel claim 15.

Please add the following claim:

The method of claim 14, wherein the step of displaying further comprises:
 detecting a presence of a person near a display;
 determining that the person does not correspond to the customer image; and
 informing the person about a subsequent action in response to the step of determining.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-21 are pending in the application, in which claim 15 is being cancelled without prejudice and claim 21 is being added in the Response to this Office Action mail on February 27, 2003. None of the claims have been previously amended.

Claims 1-5, 9, 14-17 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) by the Office Action as being anticipated by Maloomian (U.S. Patent No. 4,467,349).

Claims 6-8 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by the Office Action as being unpatentable over Maloomian, in view of Lowe (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,218).

35 USC §102

Claims 1-5, 9, and 14-17 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Maloomian (U.S. Patent No. 4,467,349). Independent claim 1 includes the limitation of "a database, coupled to the controller, for **storing the customer image** and at least one apparel image corresponding to the potential purchase item". (Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that Maloomian does not teach or even suggest this limitation. Maloomian, for example, teaches (Column 4, lines 41-54. Emphasis added.):

Referring to FIG. 2, in the operation of the invention, after all components are actuated a memory of articles or second images 26 is created. This is accomplished simply by photographing or picturing in sequence a model with the articles of clothing to be stored. The video signals from the TV camera are grabbed by the image grabber 12. The image in the image grabber is composed of horizontal lines of information called 'rasters'. **There is one image for each article of clothing and each image is in color. Each image is coded and stored in memory 18 raster by raster.** Also, the clothing size of the second image is identified (coded) as a standard. Further, each image stored in the memory is the same size top to bottom.